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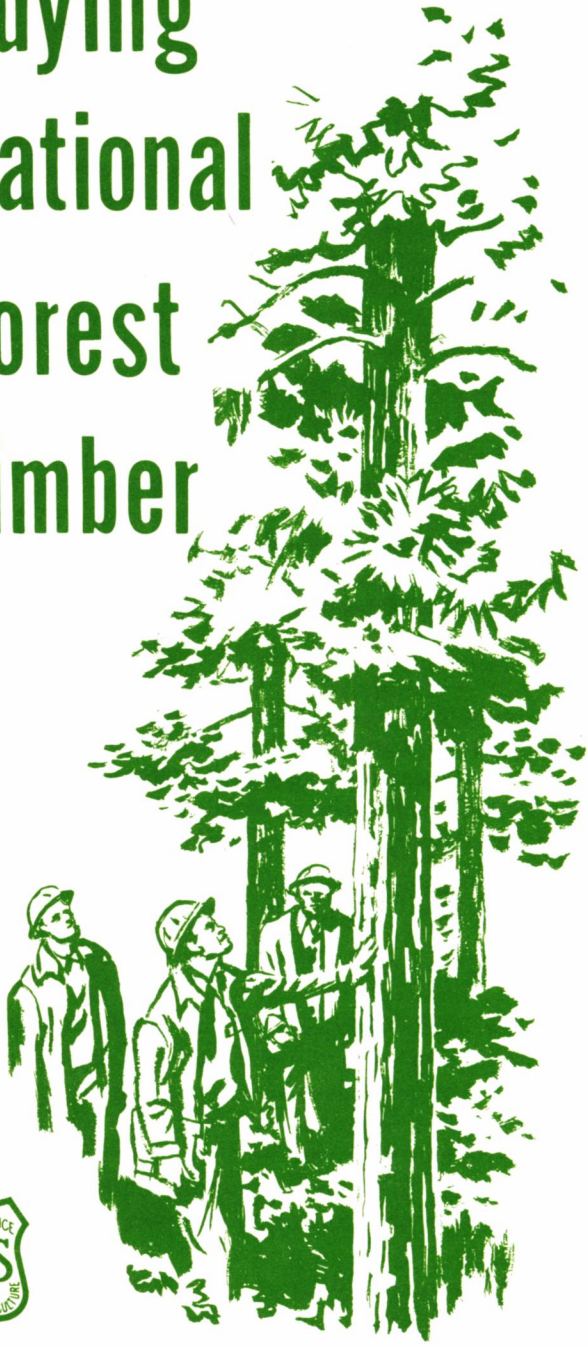
Buying National Forest Timber



U.S. Department of Agriculture – Forest Service

FS-23

NATIONAL FOREST TIMBER IS FOR SALE

The National Forests of the United States have sawtimber stands with an estimated volume of about 945 billion board feet, local scale. This is the "capital" stock from which annual harvests can be made.

From the Sitka spruce of Alaska to the quick-growing pines of the South, National Forest timber is managed and harvested so that it will produce crops forever.

See the Forest Ranger or Forest Supervisor

Management of the National Forests, for timber cutting as well as for many other uses, is the responsibility of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service.

The on-the-ground operating unit, and the key to management of all National Forest resources, is the Ranger District, in charge of a Forest Ranger. He and the Forest Supervisor, who has charge of all ranger districts in a National Forest, can supply information about buying timber.

The Regional Forester has charge of all National Forests in one of nine Regions.

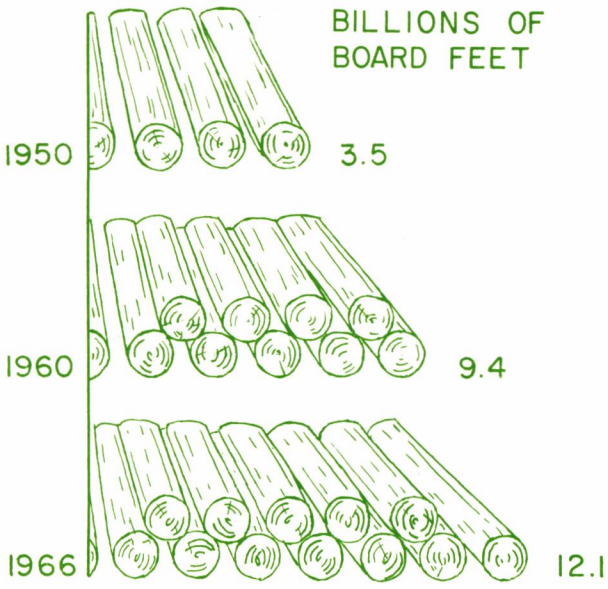
The Forest Service Does Not Cut Timber

The Forest Service sells timber to commercial operators or to local residents who depend upon the National Forests for the forest products they need. The information given in this leaflet is for the commercial operator who makes a business of buying trees on the stump and selling the products in one form or another.

How Much Is Sold?

The demand for National Forest timber is increasing. For instance . . .

From 1950 to 1966 the cut increased . . .



Demand will continue to increase as more National Forest timber is made accessible by roadbuilding. Modern transportation facilities and logging methods have made it possible to harvest some National Forest timber which at one time was not considered marketable.

What Are the Sale Requirements?

Timber is offered for sale in varying amounts—some sales with a value of a few dollars, others for several million board feet. This gives everyone an opportunity to bid on and harvest National Forest timber and forest products. About 26,000 sales are made each year.

SALE MUST BE ADVERTISED

The Forest Service is required by law to make formal public advertisement, for at least 30 days, for all sales over $2,000 in appraised value. Sales of lesser amounts may be advertised informally for shorter periods when more than one prospective purchaser is interested. Advertisements specify

such items as the date and place of bidding, location of sale, volume and species offered for sale, and minimum bid price acceptable.

BIDDERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO EXAMINE TIMBER

Prospective bidders are encouraged to examine the timber and make their own estimates of the volume and value before bidding. Sample timber sale contracts are available for review by prospective bidders in the offices of the Forest Ranger or the Forest Supervisor of the National Forest where the sale is to be made.

DEPOSITS ACCOMPANY THE BID

The specific deposits described in the advertisement must accompany the bid; those of unsuccessful bidders are returned upon award of the contract to a higher bidder. The successful bidder executes a formal contract, and in all but the smaller sales, furnishes a performance bond. The deposit that he makes when he submits the bid is retained as advance payment on the timber he is going to cut.

Forest Service timber sale contracts provide for a pay-as-you-cut operation. Payments actually are in advance of cutting; the bid deposit serves as the first advance payment in advertised sales.

What Are the Cutting Requirements?

In addition to timber, National Forests contain many other valuable natural resources, and the demand for each one is as important as is the demand for timber. Water, forage, habitat for wildlife, water for fish, and recreation for many millions of people each year are a few of the National Forest resources. For each of these the demand for a share in its use is becoming greater. National Forest lands are managed, therefore, in accordance with the principles outlined in the Multiple Use-Sustained Yield Act of June 12, 1960 (16 U.S.C. 528–531).

Cutting of timber must be done in accordance with contract requirements developed to sustain the resource itself and allow for other integrated uses. Logging of National Forest timber must be done with a minimum adverse effect on other natural resources. Limitations are placed on the harvest of timber itself to provide for maximum continuous production of desirable species and quality.

The timber is marked or otherwise designated for cutting. The required cutting methods leave cutover areas in good condition for future growth. Cutting and logging methods are such that watershed and recreation values are not injured and are frequently enhanced. Roadbuilding in varying amounts, depending upon the size of the sale, is required of the purchaser, except on smaller sales. The estimated costs of the roadbuilding, erosion prevention and control, and similar items are taken into consideration in appraising the timber. The period of the sale is specified in the contract.

Where To Get Information

If you want to buy National Forest timber and need information on specific areas or bodies of timber, go to your Forest Ranger first, if there is one in your locality. Or, if you live closer to the Forest Supervisor, ask him.

If you do not know where National Forest headquarters are located, write to the Chief, Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250, or to a regional headquarters and ask for a copy of:

FS–13—Field Offices of the Forest Service

This list gives names of National Forests, by States, and locations of the Forest Supervisor headquarters.

Regional Foresters have overall supervision of several National Forests within a Region. They can supply information on larger sales offered in their assigned Regions and on general timber sale opportunities and requirements.

Regional Headquarters

The addresses of the nine regional headquarters and the area included in each Region are listed below. States containing no National Forest are omitted. Write to the Regional Forester, Forest Service, U.S.D.A., at one of the addresses given.

Northern Region: Federal Bldg., Missoula, Mont. 59801.
Montana, northern Idaho, northeastern Washington, North Dakota, and northwestern South Dakota.

Rocky Mountain Region: Denver Federal Center, Bldg. 85, Denver, Colo. 80225.
Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, Wyoming (except western part), and South Dakota (except northwestern part).

Southwestern Region: 517 Gold Ave. SW., Albuquerque, N. Mex. 87101.
Arizona and New Mexico.

Intermountain Region: 324 25th St., Ogden, Utah 84401.
Southern Idaho, Nevada, Utah, and western Wyoming.

California Region: 630 Sansome St., San Francisco, Calif. 94111.
California.

Pacific Northwest Region: P.O. Box 3623, Portland, Oreg. 97208.
Oregon and Washington (except northeastern part).

Eastern Region: 633 West Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, Wis. 53203.
Illinois, Indiana, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Hampshire, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

Southern Region: 50 Seventh St. NE., Atlanta, Ga. 30323.
Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia.

Alaska Region: Federal Office Bldg., Box 1628, Juneau, Alaska 99801.
Southeastern Alaska.

Washington, D.C. **Issued May 1967**

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1967—O-256-186